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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. J E Fielding m
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its monitoring activities, including findings and actions taken to address water quality issues. Attached is the third of such reports, covering the period of July 1 to September 30, 2012. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the county, and outlines the actions taken by the DPH Environmental Health Division in response to these findings.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:jm
PH:1111:009

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

Quarterly Report on Water Quality Monitoring for Small Water Systems in Los Angeles County

July 1 to September 30, 2012

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Division
November 2012

BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to conduct an expanded study of the small well water facilities in the County of Los Angeles to determine the presence of arsenic, total chromium, hexavalent chromium (chromium+6), and lead as a follow up study to the study published on February 14, 2001.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program (DWP) serves as the local enforcement agency for California's Drinking Water Standards applicable to "small water systems" in Los Angeles County. A small water system is defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a system that has less than 200 service connections. The DWP currently inspects 180 small water systems within the County.

Operators of each small water system are required to complete bacteriological and chemical analyses of their potable water supplies. The water system operators are required to report monitoring results to the DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or to properly report sampling data constitutes a violation enforceable by the DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that (a) the system does not meet State Drinking Water Standards, or (b) an immediate health risk is present, the water system operator is required to: 1) notify consumers immediately, and 2) take corrective action to achieve compliance with State Drinking Water Standards. When the level of a chemical contaminant exceeds ten times the State Drinking Water Standard, the operator must discontinue water service and provide an alternative source of drinking water to consumers.

The DWP works with the CDPH to enforce State Law and to assist the water system in addressing violations for any chemical contaminant exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standards. Once a Notice of Violation is issued and consumers are notified of the exceedance, the water system is placed under increased surveillance while public notices continue to be posted. The DWP continues to educate and work with the water system regarding the installation of treatment systems and utilizing new water sources. Additionally, the DWP has continued to seek financial assistance from the State.

On November 29, 2011, the Board instructed the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This report covers the period July 01 to September 30, 2012.

BACTERIOLOGICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State Law. During the reporting period, the DWP issued Notices of Violation and Order to eighteen (18) water systems for lapses in bacteriological sampling.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in violation of the State requirement to perform bacteriological analyses.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900977	387' Tower AMSL 6176 (~kcal)	MOUNT WILSON
1900226	899' Tower AMSL 6631 (~kcbs)	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1907004	ACTON-AGUA DULCE LDS CHURCH	AGUA DULCE
1900009	ADAMS RANCH MUTUAL	ROSEMEAD
1900547	BSA-FIRESTONE SCOUT RESERVATION	BREA
1900893	CAMP BLOOMFIELD	MALIBU
1900831	DECKER CANYON YOUTH CAMP	MALIBU
1900130	DEL RIO MUTUAL	EL MONTE
1900730	GARDENS OF PARADISE	AGUA DULCE
1900553	HART HIGH / PLACERITA JR HIGH SCHOOL	VALENCIA
1900099	HOPE GARDENS FAMILY CENTER (~Forester Haven CA)	SAN FERNANDO
1907015	KIRK BUSINESS CENTER	AGUA DULCE
1900537	OAK GROVE TRAILER PARK	AGUA DULCE
1900231	SAN DIMAS CANYON DAM	LA VERNE
1900122	SE LOPEZ 1 Environmental Care Industries (~Valley Crest)	SAN FERNANDO
1900057	ST ANDREWS ABBEY	VALYERMO
1907023	The CHURCH OF HOPE of SCV (~Lily of the Valley)	SAUGUS
1900207	TRAIL CANYON EQUESTRIAN	TUJUNGA

The DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DWP continues to educate and provide assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard. During the reporting period, the DWP issued seven (7) Notices of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances.

Table 2: Small Water Systems in violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for bacteriological levels.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900553	HART HIGH SCHOOL/PLACERITA JUNIOR HIGH	VALENCIA
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL WATER SYSTEM	LANCASTER
1900537	OAK GROVE TRAILER PARK	AGUA DULCE
1907029	RANCHO SIERRA ACRES	LANCASTER
1900907	SHERWOOD MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900914	USFS-SKYLINE PARK/MOUNT WILSON	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900155	WILSONA GARDENS MUTUAL WATER SYSTEM	LANCASTER

All of the water systems listed tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Further laboratory analyses confirmed that *E. coli* was present only in one sample at Hart High School and one sample at Mettler Valley Mutual Water System. Both coliform bacteria and *E. coli* have been absent in subsequent testing of these small water systems.

C. Microbiological Treatment Requirement

Small water systems are designated as "Surface Water Systems" when they use water from streams, lakes, and open reservoirs. Similarly, small water systems are designated as "Groundwater Systems Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water" (GWUDI) when their wells are in close proximity to such features. These small water systems are required to implement multibarrier treatment. During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at six (6) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding their designation as Surface Water Systems or GWUDI Systems but have not completed full implementation of multibarrier treatment.

Table 3: Small Water Systems designated as Surface Water and GWUDI that have not met the microbiological treatment requirements.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900904	ACTON CONSERVATION CAMP # 11	ACTON
1900007	CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CAMP # 14	SAUGUS
1900901	FIRE SUPPRESSION CAMP 19	AZUSA
1900764	HENNINGER FLATS – LA COUNTY FIRE DEPT	ALTADENA
1900591	STURTEVANT CAMP, UNITED METHODIST	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900569	TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION- SAN GABRIEL	MONROVIA

The DWP is continuing to work with these water systems to develop and implement multibarrier treatment systems.

CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at thirteen (13) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the Standard (10 parts per billion).

Table 4: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900228	BIG DALTON DAM	GLENDORA
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP	LANCASTER
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1907007	NORTH HOLLYWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	SAUGUS
1907031	RANCHO YBARRA CHRISTIAN CAMP	TUJUNGA
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900987	U.S. FOREST SERVICE OAK FLATS S-13	CASTAIC
1900520	VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has installed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has proposed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with a California Licensed Water Filtration Contractor.

B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at two (2) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Nitrate levels historically exceeding the Standard (45 parts per million). These small water systems are also required to continue notification of their customers.

Table 5: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

SUMMARY

Eighteen small water systems were cited during the reporting period for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses. Seven small water systems were cited for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard during this period. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at six small water systems designated as Surface Water and GWUDI. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at thirteen small water systems with historical Arsenic exceedances and at two small water systems with historical Nitrate exceedances.

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the October to December quarter will be completed by late January 2013. The DWP will provide the report for that quarter on February 15, 2013.

For questions or for further information, please contact Richard Lavin, Chief of the Drinking Water Program, at (626) 430-5420.